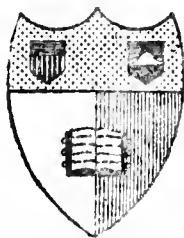




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John M. Echols
Collection on Southeast Asia
JOHN M. OLIN LIBRARY



By Special Appointment.
to
H. H. The Sultan of Johore.

The Antiques of Siam.



Wat Benjana Borpit Dusit Park Bangkok.

I am in attendance at my Showrooms Daily
9 a.m. until 5.30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. until
1 p.m. and am always pleased to show Visitors
my Collection.

J. M. Morgan.

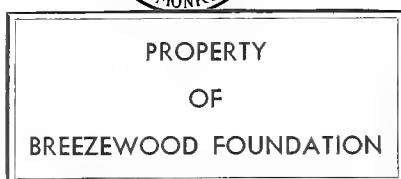
Antiquarian

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Tewkesbury House.
Facing The General Post Office.
Bangkok.

Tewkesbury House,
Bangkok.

To the Amateur Collector.

It is probable that the majority of us are conversant with that short play "The Oak Settle" — how an innocent old rustic and his wife sold — under distressing circumstances — a piece of the old family furniture — only to replace it from the workshop behind his cottage.

As collectors, we all dream of finding — quite accidentally — a wonderful bargain at the proverbial song — it has happened in the past — and will occur again — yet for one real bargain how many instances do we know of failures? — and more particularly does this apply to aspiring collectors — especially to those who buy something because it is cheap — and generally succeed in accumulating a precious lot of rubbish. We have all been guilty — knowledge has to be obtained — and that knowledge is purchased only by experience.

There are still plenty of genuine antiques in every country — and as the multitude of collectors does not decrease — there are still sufficient examples to go round — but as a rule it is the intelligent antiquarian — one who has spent a quarter of a century in searching who knows where they are.

To gather together a collection of quality takes up both time and money — the expert has to give both — and it is to the benefit of the purchaser that he can take advantage of them, so give him, therefore his just and proper profit — he has a business to maintain — a reputation to uphold — he sells his hard earned experience when you purchase his fascinating *Objet d'Art*.

Never forget Whistler's retort when counsel for Ruskin cross examined him on the point that the "Falling Rocket" had been painted in a couple of days.

"The labour of two days, then, is that for which you ask two hundred guineas?"

"No" replied Whistler with characteristic acerbity, "I ask it for the knowledge of a lifetime".

S. H. M. Argry.

The Antiques and Treasures of Siam.

Siam is one of the few countries where authentic antiques and examples of their Ancient Art can still be obtained at a reasonable price—but the supply is gradually becoming very limited—which it is not difficult to appreciate, when the demands of the world's collectors are taken into consideration.

As a collector myself I am naturally anxious that my confrers should understand the conditions existing here—and if they will allow me—to advise them as to the best methods to follow in making purchases.

The National Institute of Fine Arts demand that any genuine Antique or Curio which it is intended to be taken out of Siam shall first be sent to them for the purpose of having a sealed permit together with a certificate granted allowing its export—and as the facilities of the Institute are very efficient and inexpensive I recommend any collector purchasing here to adhere to the regulations—as far as I am personally concerned—I always obtain the necessary permit and certificate for each piece before I place it before a prospective purchaser.

I particularly desire to inform my patrons that it does not necessarily infer that I have all the examples illustrated in this brochure in my possession at the present time, although of a necessity they have been.

They are illustrations of periods—and types and I have endeavoured to interest the reader, who may be a possible collector, in such a manner that he may be guided in his ideas.

It is an “*Antique*” remark—but nevertheless perfectly correct that—“*a little knowledge is a very dangerous thing*”—and is very applicable when the purchase of antiques or curios is concerned

The greatest museum authorities in London and New York have acknowledged serious errors of judgement—the Worlds Connoisseurs have been deceived by reproductions of well known pictures; surely then the “*little man*” can be excused if he allows his love of the beautiful—to control his inclination—even against his intentions.



Walking Buddha, District Sukhotai, approximate period 1300 A.D.
Material fine Bronze alloy—a very rare position & an extremely
beautiful example of modelling.

I once asked a friend of mine, acknowledged as one of the finest judges of Porcelain in the world, “*Is there any recognised basis otherwise than experience upon which the leading dealers purchase?*” —his reply was, “*A dealer buys to sell again—he depends upon his experience to make his profit.*” But the collector as a rule buys that which he considers beautiful and for his own pleasure—the financial side seldom enters his decision; and I must confess that the ideals of the collector have influenced me in most of my dealings—I do not regret it—I have had great happiness—the fascination of that mysterious inscrutable expression of the “Khmer Head”—the possession of a fine example of the modellers skill, has given me thrills—and I do not hesitate to say that if the amateur collector were to go upon this basis he would experience the same felicity—always assuming that his purchases were made from a reputable source.



Sleeping Buddha with 3 attendants. Period between late Sukhothai and Ayuthia 1500 A.D. The 3 attendants are very exceptional and as an example it is very rare. Material fine Bronze alloy.

Again - it is very necessary to understand the difference between Siamese Art—and Chinese productions made to represent it.

During the past 10 or 15 years—dealers and collectors from all parts of the world have been buying here—to what an extent can be appreciated when I mention the fact that one collection of 520 cases recently left Bangkok.

This has created the great question of supply and demand—the result of which has been that the imitative Chinaman is keeping the Tourist market supplied with “Antiques” averaging from 3 to 9 months of age—which are wonderfully produced—and many European & American buyers have been mistaken.

In order to regulate or control the distribution of Antiques and Curios—The Siamese Government have instituted a stringent law requiring the registration of all dealers in Antiques and Curios—and issuing a certificate authorising the holder to purchase or sell—a very necessary and important proceeding—and which should tend to protect the inexperienced collector.



Plaque of the Buddha;
Material Tin; Period Suphan between 1500/1600 A.D.

I desire to inform my readers that in publishing this brochure, defining my ideas, and illustrating examples of Period, I do not presume to approach that select and awe-inspiring few who lay down the rules—regulations and principals, which are intended to control the opinions and purchases of the lover of the Antique.

Rather indeed do I address myself to those who, being similary fascinated with a desire to collect, combined with a “flair” or limited knowledge of what we consider an example of a past mastermind—and providing that our purse is sufficiently deep—attempt to possess something that being “a thing of beauty” will be to us “a joy for ever”.

The question of the packing and transport of special pieces is one of the difficulties which the travelling Collector has always in view—in order to obviate this I have made arrangements for packing and shipping direct to any given address examples of Art or Curio purchased from me—all charges for which can be paid on delivery at destination.

I have been in Bangkok 23 years and it is a pleasure to me at any time to discuss Siam and show my collection irrespective of Business—my experience being somewhat extensive my opinion must be of some value.



A very rare image of "Rama" with his wife & attendant.

Period Lopburi (Khmer influence in Siam) 1100 A.D.

Material Bronze alloy.

1. Chinese Porcelain

2. Siamese Porcelain

3. Siam Buddha

Early Ayuthia 1500 A. D.

Extremely rare type, and a very beautiful
piece of modelling

Very fine Bronze alloy.

4. Sitting Buddha

Bronze alloy

Type of Khmer influence in Siam.

Lopburi period.

1



2



3

PURCHASED BY A COLLECTOR



PURCHASED BY A COLLECTOR



PURCHASED BY A COLLECTOR

1. Buddha Head

Bronze alloy,

Type of Khmer period in Siam.

Lopburi District

2. Buddha Head

Bronze alloy

Type of Khmer period in Siam

Lopburi District

3. Chinese pottery

dug out of a Chinese Grave

Sung period 1200 A. D.

4. Siamese pottery

Sawankalok District

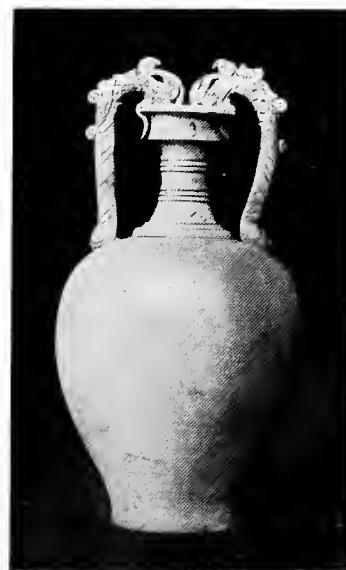
1500 to 1600 A. D.



PURCHASED BY A COLLECTOR



PURCHASED BY A COLLECTOR



PURCHASED BY A COLLECTOR



PURCHASED BY A COLLECTOR

1. Wooden carving of the Goddess of Rain

Sukhotai period 1300 A. D.

2. Khmer Figure

Bronze alloy

3. Buddha under 7 headed Snake

Khmer influence in Siam.

Lopburi 1100 A. D.

Bronze alloy.

4. Chinese Buddha Head.

Bronze alloy.

1



2



3



4



PURCHASED BY A COLLECTOR



Very fine example of Ayuthia Crowned Buddha
400/500 years old. Material Bronze. Height 40 inches.

Visitors to Bangkok are cordially invited to visit my Studio and Workshops, as the study of the method in my production of the highest class in Siamese Craftsmanship as applied to handmade Gold—Silver—and Niello work—is interesting. I also specialise in the Cutting and polishing of Jade—.

S. M. Argent.

F. W. Margrett.

(Formerly of Trafalgar Square London)

Established in Bangkok 1909.

Antiquarian.

Expert in "The Antiques and Curios of Siam."

Chinese Porcelain.

Showrooms.

Tewkesbury House, New Road.

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The Antiques of Siam /



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